graphic element is positioned within the content viewing area to only partially obstruct content in the content viewing area.

    2.   A hypermedia browser as recited in claim 1, wherein the temporary graphic element is animated.

    3.   A hypermedia browser as recited in claim 1, wherein the hypermedia browser displays the temporary graphic element in a corner of the content viewing area.

    4.   A hypermedia browser as recited in claim 1, wherein the hypermedia browser presents the temporary graphic element within a temporary window in a windowing operating environment.

    5.   A hypermedia browser as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the temporary graphic element is animated; and

the hypermedia browser presents the temporary graphic element within a temporary window in a windowing operating environment.

    6.   (Amended) An information processing device comprising:

a processor;

a display;

a hypermedia browser executing on the processor to load and display content in a content viewing area on the display;

wherein the hypermedia browser displays a temporary graphic element over the content viewing area during times when the browser is loading content;

wherein the temporary graphic element occupies only a portion of the content viewing area and only partially obstructs content in the content viewing area; and

wherein the temporary graphic element indicates to a user that the browser is loading content.

7. An information processing device as recited in claim 6, wherein the temporary graphic element is animated.

8. An information processing device as recited in claim 6, wherein the hypermedia browser displays the temporary graphic element in a corner of the content viewing area.

9. An information processing device as recited in claim 6, wherein the hypermedia browser displays the temporary graphic element within a temporary window in a windowing operating environment.

10. An information processing device as recited in claim 6, wherein:

the temporary graphic element is animated; and

the hypermedia browser displays the temporary graphic element within a temporary window in a windowing operating environment.

11. (Amended) A method of browsing a hyperlink resource, comprising the following steps:

loading content from the hyperlink resource in response to user selection of hyperlinks contained in said content;

displaying the content in a content viewing area;

displaying a temporary graphic element over the content viewing area during the loading step, wherein the temporary graphic element only partially obstructs content in the content viewing area.

12. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising an additional step of animating the temporary graphic element.

13. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the displaying step includes displaying the temporary graphic element in a corner of the content viewing area.

14. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the displaying step includes displaying the temporary graphic element within a temporary window in a windowing operating environment.

15. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising an additional step of animating the temporary graphic element, wherein the displaying step includes displaying the temporary graphic element within a temporary window in a windowing operating environment:

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16. A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions that are executable for performing the steps recited in claim 11.

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 1, 6, and 11 are amended above. No claims have been canceled.

All claims have been rejected under §103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,760,771 to Blonder et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,877,776 to Bates et al. The rejections are traversed below. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all claims.

Prior Art References

The Blonder reference describes a "tour guide" that shows pages to a user. In rejecting the claims of the application, the Examiner refers to an excerpt found at column 3, lines 26-41 of Blonder. This excerpt describes what happens when there are anticipated delays in downloading new pages:

> Likewise, if a delay in displaying a page is anticipated, the tour will display predetermined padding information, the guide will provide padding, or both. Padding is predetermined content, usually of a general nature, that may be inserted seamlessly anywhere in a tour.

Blonder, col. 3, lines 32-36.

The Examiner has cited Bates primarily for its discussion of browsers. In addition, the Examiner contents that Bates discloses a "limited display area." As discussed below, however, Bates is not a valid prior art reference.